

**Midweek Vespers Service
September 30, 2020
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
6:30 p.m.**



Face Coverings Required

1. Welcome

2. The Confession Of Sin and Absolution:

Pastor Dearly Beloved, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

Congregation Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Hymn #23 “Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
And let Thy Holy Spirit bow
All hearts in love and fear today
To hear the truth and keep Thy way.

2 Open our lips to sing Thy praise,
Our hearts in true devotion raise,
Our faith increase, our minds enlight
That we may know Thy name aright

3 Until we join the host that cry
"Holy art Thou, O Lord most High!"
And 'mid the light of that blest place
Shall gaze upon Thee face to face.

4 Glory to God, the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

4. The Versicles and Gloria Patri

Pastor O Lord, Open my lips.

♪ Congregation And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Pastor Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ Congregation Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: forevermore, Amen. Alleluia.

5. Psalm 86:1-7 read responsively by whole verse

¹ Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

² Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

³ Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

⁶ Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

6. Scripture Lessons: **Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:5-9; Matthew 18:21-35**

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Romans 14:5-9

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell

on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

7. **A Responsory** *page 122*

Pastor O Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ *Congregation* Thanks be to You, O Lord!

8. **Hymn #216 "Of Zion's Honor Angels Sing"**

1 Of Zion's honor angels sing!
In Zion Christ alone is King;
In grace He rules with gentle sway
And leads her heav'n-ward day by day.

2 For Zion knows no other Lord,
But cleaves to His unerring Word:
To her suffices: Jesus saith!
This is her source and rule of faith.

3 To her He gave the Pow'r of Keys,
To bind and loose as He decrees;
Through her declares our sins forgiv'n
That we may be fit heirs of heav'n.

4 Apostles, prophets, He hath sent
To her with Word and Sacrament,
And still sends servants of the Word
To serve the Church and Christ, her Lord.

5 God Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Adored by all the heav'nly host,
We bow in Zion at Thy throne-
No other God and Lord we own.

9. **Sermon "Lord Of Both The Dead And The Living" *Romans 14:5-9***

10. **The Versicle & Canticle**

Pastor Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

♪ *Congregation* And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

11. **The Nunc Dimittis**

♪ *Congregation* Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to Your Word

For my eyes have seen Your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people.

A Light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end, Amen.

12. **The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie**

♪ *Congregation* Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

13. The Lord's Prayer

♪ **Congregation** Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

14. Luther's Evening Prayer

Congregation In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

15. The Benedicamus & Benediction

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

16. Closing Hymn #240 "Jesus, Refuge Of The Weary"

1 Jesus, Refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above,
O how oft Thine eyes, offended,
Gaze upon the sinner's fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended,
Thou didst bear the pain of all.

2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see Thee wounded, bleeding,
See Thy thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Thy sinless death hath brought us
Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Thy grace hath taught us
Calms the sinner's stormy breast.

3 Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for Thee!
May our eyes be ever turning
To Thy cross of agony,
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever
Dwell the cross, the Crucified!

Announcements

Outdoor Service – We will be having an outdoor service next Sunday, October 4th at 9:00 am. Bring chairs or sit in your car and tune in via the FM transmitter. (1 service only that day).

Fall Worship Schedule - After much consideration the Church Council has decided not to open up in-person Sunday School and Adult Bible Study in September.

- We will continue to have 2 Sunday services at 8:00 and 9:30 and the Wednesday service at 6:30. Masks will be required.
- Sunday School will continue as distance learning.
- Pastor will be doing Adult Bible Study online for viewing on Sunday or during the week.
- Thursday Men's Bible Study will continue, in-person, in the fellowship hall. Masks will be required.
- In-person Junior Catechism Class is on Wednesday afternoons at 4:15. Masks will be required.
- All areas will be sanitized after use.

Women's Bible Study - The Heritage Women's Bible class meets on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. We are continuing our discussion of *More Prepared to Answer*. These are stand alone lessons, so plan on joining us when you are able. Contact Ruth at 651-457-9379 or rb1950@gmail.com to register for class.

Men's Bible Study – Mens' Bible study meets (masks required) at 8:00 am on Thursdays.

Heritage Choir – The choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (masks required).

Fall Service Times Resume on October 11th – Starting Sunday, October 11th, we will resume our usually fall schedule for worship services. We will have early service at 8:00 am and late service at 10:30 am. Sunday School will resume at 9:15. Adult Bible study will continue online for now.

Thank you – Floyd Von Bargaen would like to thank everyone for their birthday wishes. He celebrated his 90th birthday with style!

TLC – TLC will be meeting in-person in the sanctuary on October 6th. The main topic will be the possibility of holding a Bazaar in some abbreviated form. Bring your ideas. Drive by lefse? Friends only? Toilet paper ornaments> Hand sanitizer stocking stuffers?

Members Helping Members – Member helping members would like to remind people that there is a special needs fund. If you feel compelled to donate to this fund to help our members in need, please do so at this time and indicate member helpers members in the memo line.